



MEDIA RELEASE

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CFA Surge Capacity – Essential for Victoria

The CFA volunteers' association has launched a cleverly designed animated video that explains how CFA Brigades across the state can quickly call thousands of firefighters into action, to deal with major emergencies, anywhere at any time.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) Chief Executive Officer Andrew Ford says the video illustrates the capacity, professionalism and essential nature of CFA's great resource of volunteer and career people.

"With CFA's great team of 60,000 volunteers and 2,600 paid operational and support staff, you can be confident that the CFA is always ready to respond to fires and to support communities, wherever and whenever disaster occurs," Mr Ford said.

"As well as all private land in Victoria, CFA Brigades cover more than half of metropolitan Melbourne; they work on local fires, day to day emergencies and major disasters anywhere in the state," he said.

"Your local CFA is part of a huge network of CFA Brigades that can call on thousands of trained, experienced volunteer firefighters, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

"CFA's huge volunteer numbers mean the ability to combat multiple fires at a time, keep supplying firefighters on the ground for weeks or more as required, and maintain the capacity to keep responding to local incidents back in their home communities," Mr Ford said.

CFA volunteers have found that many people don't realise CFA protects more than half of suburban Melbourne, and Brigades from the metropolitan area send thousands of volunteers to fight major fires around the state every summer.

"Most people have an image of volunteers as frontline firefighters, but volunteers also operate at every level through to the most senior levels of major incident command, in specialist roles and in all manner of support, logistics and planning roles," Mr Ford said.

More...

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“CFA Brigades respond to all manner of emergencies, including fire, flood, industrial/chemical incidents and road accidents. The value of the CFA volunteers’ contribution in labour alone has been calculated at close to one billion dollars a year,” he said.

CFA firefighters are trained to nationally recognised standards and protect 60% of suburban Melbourne, regional cities and all of country Victoria, every day and night of the year.

You can find the video on the VFBV website www.vfbv.com.au along with a message of thanks and support from Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garrett.

Ends...

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